EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

PROCEDURE

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

Procedure No. FR-SCBA-9.0.0

Revision No. 4

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Procedure Title: Self-contained Breathing Apparatus and Escape Breathing Apparatus Used by Firefighters

1.0 PURPOSE:

1.1 This Procedure outlines the rules by which Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is to be used by members of the Fire/Rescue Group.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Fire Line Officers and Fire Safety Officers are responsible for assuring that all members under their command follow these procedures.
- 2.2 All members of the Fire/Rescue Group are responsible for adhering to these procedures.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

None

4.0 PREREQUISITES

None

5.0 PRECAUTIONS

None

6.0 PROCEDURE

6.1 When the alarm of fire is received from the alarm system, the investigation team need not put the face piece on. Should a fire be discovered, the investigating team will place Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in service and the fire officer will commence fire/rescue activities. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is to be used by all officers and firefighters for all interior firefighting - no matter how small the fire. No member is permitted to enter a structure with a reported fire unless wearing Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus even when the fire is not immediately obvious.

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- 6.2 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is to be used in exterior fire situations involving all vehicle fires or unknown materials where fire fighting cannot be conducted from a position upwind, or the wind conditions are unstable and firefighters might become engulfed in smoke.
- 6.3 Escape Breathing Apparatus is used in confined space situations or when inline air systems are in use.
- 6.4 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is to be used in all non-fire emergencies involving gas releases, chemical spills or radioactive materials until the Fire Safety Officer can determine that no toxic gases or particulate matter which can be inhaled are present. The officer is to be particularly conscious of the possibility of higher concentrations of toxic gases or oxygen deficiencies in low lying areas.
- 6.5 To conserve air while setting up to attack a fire or control an incident, it is acceptable to don Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus without wearing the mask. However, good judgement must be used to avoid sudden exposure by unexpected events. When directly adjacent to hazardous areas, the use of the mask is encouraged.
- 6.6 The Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is to be used as per manufacturers specifications.
- 6.7 The donning of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in the above situations is to be automatic, and does not require an order from an officer.
- 6.8 Removal of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus following a fire occurs only upon order of the Fire Safety Officer, after determination that the air is safe to breathe.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING

None

8.0 REFERENCES

Manufacturers suggested guidelines for use of SCBA

9.0 ATTACHMENTS

None